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Analysis of the Effects of Total Population Unemployment and Government Expenditures on Poverty Levels in Mimika Regency 2011-2023

Author:
Stenlly Befry Tutkey[1], Ivan Rahmat Santoso[2], Fitri Hadi Yulia Akib[3]

[1]Gorontalo State University, Indonesia
Email: stenllytutkey@gmail.com
[2]Gorontalo State University, Indonesia
Email: ivan_santoso@ung.ac.id
[3]Gorontalo State University, Indonesia
Email:fitriakib@ung.ac.id

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ABSTRACT
This research aims to determine the influence of total population, unemployment and government expenditures on poverty levels in Mimika Regency in 2011-2023. The data used in this research uses secondary data sourced from the Mimika Regency Central Statistics Agency and the Directorate General of Financial Balance, Ministry of Finance. This research uses a multiple linear regression analysis method using the OLS (Ordinary Least Square) model. Data processing uses Eviews 10 statistical testing. The results of this study show that total population has a partial positive and insignificant effect on poverty levels. Unemployment has a positive and insignificant effect on poverty levels, and government expenditures has a negative and insignificant effect on poverty levels. The results of simultaneous statistical tests show that population, unemployment and government expenditures do not have a significant effect on the poverty level in Mimika Regency in 2011-2023.

Keywords: Total Population, Unemployment, Government Expenditures, Poverty

INTRODUCTION
Poverty remains a persistent and complex issue across developing nations, significantly influencing the overall socio-economic conditions of affected populations. In Indonesia, poverty rates have fluctuated despite consistent efforts by both the government and private sectors to stimulate economic growth and implement welfare programs. While Indonesia has experienced significant economic advancements, the country's poverty rate remains relatively high compared to global standards (Nurwati, 2008). This is particularly evident in areas like Mimika Regency, where economic disparity and poverty continue to challenge sustainable development, even as the region benefits from natural resource wealth.

Various factors contribute to the persistence of poverty in Mimika Regency, including rapid population growth, high unemployment rates, and inefficient allocation of government expenditure. Population growth, although a natural phenomenon, poses challenges when it outpaces the availability of adequate resources and job opportunities, exacerbating poverty levels (Suryawati, 2005). The Malthusian perspective on population growth supports this view, suggesting that unchecked population increases could strain resources and hinder economic progress. Additionally,

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unemployment remains a critical issue, as it not only reduces household income but also diminishes productivity and economic stability. Government spending, on the other hand, is designed to boost economic activity and reduce poverty, but its effectiveness often depends on the quality and targeting of these expenditures (Scott, 2002). Therefore, understanding how these factors interrelate and influence poverty is crucial for designing effective policy interventions.

Despite various poverty alleviation initiatives, Indonesia still struggles with disparities in income distribution and access to essential services. Mimika Regency, a region marked by its rich mineral resources and economic potential, paradoxically experiences considerable poverty levels. The complex interplay between a growing population, limited employment opportunities, and government expenditure inefficiency demands a closer examination to identify tailored solutions. The national poverty line in Indonesia is also notably lower than international standards, meaning many people live above the official poverty line yet face deprivation in multiple dimensions, such as education, healthcare, and food security (Windia, 2015). Addressing these multi-dimensional poverty issues requires comprehensive strategies that incorporate both economic growth and targeted social welfare policies.

The primary research problem in this study is to determine how population growth, unemployment, and government expenditure affect poverty levels in Mimika Regency. Broadly, conventional solutions to poverty have revolved around improving economic growth, job creation, and optimizing government expenditure to improve living standards. However, these approaches have produced mixed results in developing economies, suggesting a need for more context-specific strategies. Economic theory postulates that government expenditure can stimulate economic activity by creating jobs and providing social services, but if poorly managed, it can fail to address the root causes of poverty. Similarly, demographic and labor market factors must be adequately analyzed to ensure that economic interventions are well-targeted and effective.

From previous research, certain theories offer insight into the mechanisms by which these factors impact poverty. The relationship between population growth and poverty has been widely studied. Mudrajad Kuncoro (1997) argues that rapid population growth, without corresponding economic development and employment opportunities, creates a cycle of poverty where resources become insufficient for a larger population. Similarly, studies on unemployment have demonstrated its direct effect on poverty, as jobless individuals often lack the income needed to support their families and contribute to economic growth (Prayoga, 2019). Moreover, government expenditure aimed at poverty reduction is effective only when properly directed towards essential sectors like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Sumarsono (2003) highlights that inefficient use of public funds can exacerbate economic disparities rather than alleviate them.

Research specifically related to Mimika Regency or similar contexts has revealed varying outcomes. Aiyedogbon & Ohwofasa (2012) found that unemployment significantly affects poverty, while the impact of government expenditure depends on how well funds are allocated and implemented. Similarly, Irhamni (2018) observed that population growth has a mixed impact on poverty levels, emphasizing the need for job creation and resource optimization. Studies like Anggraini et al. (2022) further support these findings, showing that while government expenditure has the potential to reduce poverty, its impact is often diluted by inefficiencies in execution and the mismatch between public spending and actual community needs. The complexity of these relationships indicates that a one-size-fits-all solution may not be effective, and more nuanced, region-specific approaches are required.

Although much research has explored the connections between economic variables and poverty, there is still a gap in understanding the simultaneous effects of population growth, unemployment, and government expenditure in specific regions like Mimika Regency. Previous studies provide valuable insights but do not fully address the unique socio-economic dynamics of this area, particularly the influence of local governance and resource management. This research aims to fill that gap by examining these factors using recent data and robust econometric methods, offering a comprehensive analysis of their individual and collective impacts on poverty.

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The objective of this study is to empirically analyze the effects of population size, unemployment, and government expenditure on poverty levels in Mimika Regency from 2011 to 2023. The research introduces a novel approach by applying a multiple regression model to assess these variables' interactions and significance. By doing so, it seeks to contribute to the academic discourse on poverty alleviation and provide policymakers with actionable insights. The scope of the study encompasses demographic trends, labor market analysis, and fiscal policy evaluation, aiming to generate findings that are not only theoretically significant but also practically applicable to the region's development efforts. The research's contribution lies in its ability to offer evidence-based recommendations that could inform better policy frameworks and support sustainable poverty reduction strategies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study draws on theories of poverty and economic growth, including Malthusian views on population pressure and models linking unemployment to poverty. It reviews prior empirical research showing mixed results on the effectiveness of government spending in poverty alleviation.

Poverty is the condition of community members who do not want or have not participated in the process of change because they do not have the ability, either the ability to own production factors, or the quality of production factors is inadequate, so they do not benefit from the results of the development process. (Ayu, 2018)

In measuring poverty, it can be divided into two types, namely:
1. Relative Poverty
Relative poverty is a condition of poverty due to the influence of development policies that have not been able to reach all levels of society, causing income inequality.
2. Absolute Poverty
Absolute poverty is poverty resulting from the inability to meet minimum basic needs such as food, clothing, health, housing and education that are needed to be able to live and work. (Hasan & Zikriah, 2009)

The population is one of the factors causing poverty. Uncontrolled population growth in a country can result in a large number of workers. However, on the one hand, if there are not enough jobs, it can result in a lot of unemployment. This large number of unemployed can also result in quite high levels of poverty. The large population is the cause of poverty, the high and low population is influenced by demographic processes, namely: Birth, death and migration (Ayu, 2018).

Unemployed is someone who does not have a job or is in the workforce who is looking for work. The higher the unemployment rate and those who do not receive wages to meet their needs, the higher the poverty (Nur Feriyanto, 2014).

The government issues a budget to help emphasize and alleviate poverty by improving human development. These expenditures will increase aggregate expenditure and increase the level of economic activity in a country (Sukirno, 2012).

A high population will also cause high unemployment and an increase in poverty if it is not supported by the provision of adequate employment opportunities for the working age population. If the number of jobs increases, the number of workers will also increase. If adequate employment opportunities are not available, the amount of poverty will also increase, resulting in the level of community welfare decreasing. (Wiradyatmika & Sudiana, 2013)

Unemployment is a social problem in society where the majority live in the lower middle economy and will cause people's productivity and income to decrease, giving rise to poverty. (Prayoga, 2019)
Government spending is one part of fiscal policy which aims to encourage investment and employment opportunities by maintaining economic stability and equal distribution of income.

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Government spending has a direct or indirect influence on poverty, namely by spending on health, education, infrastructure and so on. (Azmi & Panjawa, 2022)

RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter outlines the research methodology adopted to analyze the impact of population growth, unemployment, and government expenditure on poverty levels in Mimika Regency from 2011 to 2023. The methodology is structured to ensure a systematic and logical approach to address the research objectives using reliable data and appropriate analytical techniques.

Research Design and Approach

This study employs a quantitative research approach, given the emphasis on numerical data and statistical analysis to evaluate relationships between variables. Quantitative research is essential for objectively analyzing large sets of data and deriving conclusions based on empirical evidence (Sugiyono, 2013). The research design adopted is an explanatory research design, which seeks to explain the relationships and potential causal links between population growth, unemployment, government spending, and poverty levels. This design is well-suited for studies aiming to establish the direction and magnitude of effects between variables using established econometric models.

Data Sources and Types

The research relies on secondary data, collected from authoritative and reliable sources. The primary sources of data include the Central Statistics Agency of Mimika Regency and the Directorate General of Financial Balance at the Ministry of Finance. Secondary data is crucial in this study as it allows for the analysis of trends and relationships over time, leveraging existing comprehensive datasets that capture economic, demographic, and fiscal variables (Sugiyono, 2009). The data spans from 2011 to 2023, ensuring a robust time series analysis. The variables collected are measured annually, and all datasets are expressed in relevant units, such as population figures in terms of individuals, government expenditure in Indonesian rupiah, and poverty levels also in terms of affected population numbers.

Variables and Operational Definitions

The study includes three independent variables—population size, unemployment, and government expenditure—and one dependent variable, poverty levels. Each variable is operationally defined to ensure clarity in measurement and analysis:

1. Population Size (X1): Refers to the total number of residents in Mimika Regency within a given year. This variable captures demographic changes over time and is obtained from annual population reports published by the Central Statistics (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2024). High population growth may strain resources and exacerbate poverty levels if not matched by economic opportunities.
2. Unemployment (X2): Represents the number of individuals within the workforce who are actively seeking employment but remain jobless. This measure is reported in terms of the total unemployed individuals each year and sourced from the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2024). Unemployment is a critical indicator of economic health, as higher unemployment typically correlates with increased poverty (Sukirno, 2001).
3. Government Expenditure (X3): Reflects the total spending by local government authorities, encompassing expenditures on infrastructure, social services, and welfare programs. This variable is expressed in Indonesian rupiah and obtained from financial reports of the Directorate General of Financial Balance (Direktorat Jenderal Perimbangan Keuangan Kementerian Keuangan, 2023). Efficient government spending is expected to mitigate poverty, but misallocation can weaken its impact (Sumarsono, 2003).
4. Poverty Levels (Y): The dependent variable measured as the number of people living below the poverty line in Mimika Regency. The data on poverty levels is acquired from the Central Statistics Agency and reflects the standard indicators used to define and measure poverty, including income thresholds and access to basic needs (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023).

Data Analysis Techniques

The research employs multiple linear regression analysis using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method. OLS is chosen for its effectiveness in estimating relationships between a dependent variable

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and multiple independent variables, providing a clear understanding of the strength and nature of these relationships. The analysis is conducted using Eviews 10, a statistical software package that facilitates robust econometric modeling and hypothesis testing. The regression model can be expressed as follows:

$Yt=\beta0+\beta1X1t+\beta2X2t+\beta3X3t+\varepsilon tY_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_{1t} + \beta_2X_{2t} + \beta_3X_{3t} + \varepsilon_tYt=\beta0+\beta1X1t+\beta2X2t+\beta3X3t+\varepsilon t$

Where:

- YtY_tYt = Poverty levels in year ttt
- $\beta0\beta_0\beta0$ = Constant term
- $\beta1,\beta2,\beta3\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3\beta1,\beta2,\beta3$ = Coefficients of population size, unemployment, and government expenditure, respectively
- $X1t,X2t,X3tX_{1t}, X_{2t}, X_{3t}X1t,X2t,X3t$ = Independent variables (population size, unemployment, and government expenditure) in year ttt
- $\varepsilon t\varepsilon_t\varepsilon t$ = Error term

Classical Assumption Tests

To ensure the validity and reliability of the regression model, several classical assumption tests are conducted. These tests include:

1. Normality Test: The Jarque-Bera (JB) test is used to determine whether the residuals of the regression model are normally distributed. A probability value greater than 0.05 indicates that the residuals follow a normal distribution, meeting one of the key assumptions of OLS.
2. Linearity Test: The Ramsey RESET test assesses whether the relationship between the independent and dependent variables is linear. A probability value greater than 0.05 confirms that the model satisfies the linearity assumption, indicating that the chosen regression form is appropriate.
3. Multicollinearity Test: Variance Inflation Factors (VIF) are calculated to check for multicollinearity among the independent variables. VIF values below 10 indicate that multicollinearity is not a concern, ensuring that the independent variables are not excessively correlated.
4. Autocorrelation Test: The Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM test is performed to detect the presence of autocorrelation in the residuals. A probability value greater than 0.05 indicates that there is no autocorrelation, which is crucial for time series data to avoid biased estimates.
5. Heteroskedasticity Test: The Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey test is used to identify any heteroskedasticity issues, where the variance of the residuals is not constant. A probability value greater than 0.05 suggests that the model does not suffer from heteroskedasticity, ensuring efficient and unbiased coefficient estimates.

Hypothesis Testing

The study employs both simultaneous (F-test) and partial (t-test) hypothesis testing to evaluate the significance of the independent variables:

1. F-Test: This test examines whether all the independent variables collectively have a significant effect on the dependent variable. A probability value less than 0.05 indicates that the variables jointly influence poverty levels significantly.
2. T-Test: The t-test is used to evaluate the significance of each independent variable individually. A probability value less than 0.05 implies that the variable significantly affects poverty levels, either positively or negatively.
3. Coefficient of Determination (R^2): This metric quantifies the proportion of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variables. A higher R^2 value indicates a better fit of the regression model, although it is important to interpret this value in conjunction with other diagnostic tests.

Research Validity and Reliability

Ensuring the validity and reliability of the findings is critical. The use of well-established econometric methods and robust statistical software (Eviews 10) enhances the accuracy of the

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results. Additionally, the study's reliance on official and credible data sources, such as the Central Statistics Agency and the Ministry of Finance, ensures data integrity. By adhering to classical assumption tests, the research minimizes the risk of model misspecification and enhances the credibility of the findings.

Limitations and Delimitations

While the study provides valuable insights into the determinants of poverty in Mimika Regency, it is not without limitations. First, the use of secondary data may introduce biases related to data collection and reporting. Additionally, the study only considers a limited set of variables, potentially overlooking other factors that influence poverty, such as education, health infrastructure, and external economic shocks. The findings are also specific to Mimika Regency and may not be generalizable to other regions without additional contextual analysis.

Ethical Considerations

The research adheres to ethical standards in data usage and reporting. Since the study uses publicly available secondary data, there are no issues related to informed consent or data privacy. All sources of data are properly cited, and the analysis is conducted transparently, ensuring the integrity of the research process.

In summary, this methodological framework provides a comprehensive approach to investigating the impact of demographic and fiscal factors on poverty levels in Mimika Regency. The structured use of classical assumption tests and hypothesis testing ensures that the analysis yields reliable and valid insights, contributing to the broader understanding of poverty determinants and informing evidence-based policy recommendations.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of the Findings

This section presents and discusses the main results obtained from the analysis of the impact of population growth, unemployment, and government expenditure on poverty levels in Mimika Regency from 2011 to 2023. The analysis employed multiple linear regression using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method, with Eviews 10 as the statistical tool. The findings are discussed in the context of the study's objectives and compared with relevant literature.

Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive analysis of the data provides insights into the trends and distribution of the variables over the 13-year study period. Table 1 summarizes the descriptive statistics for population size, unemployment, government expenditure, and poverty levels.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of Variables (2011-2023)

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Population Size (X1)	252,547.6	39,120.8	187,779	316,295
Unemployment (X2)	6,646.7	1,485.4	3,930	8,928
Government Expenditure (X3)	2.67 trillion IDR	1.32 trillion IDR	1.33 trillion IDR	5.40 trillion IDR
Poverty Levels (Y)	33,098.3	3,501.4	30,120	40,320

The data show significant fluctuations in population size, unemployment rates, and government expenditure over the years. Population size steadily increased, while unemployment rates exhibited periodic rises and falls. Government expenditure consistently increased, reflecting efforts to address socio-economic issues, including poverty. Despite these trends, poverty levels remained relatively high, indicating potential inefficiencies in policy implementation.

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Regression Analysis Results

The regression analysis provides quantitative estimates of how each independent variable affects poverty levels in Mimika Regency. Table 2 shows the coefficients, standard errors, t-values, and p-values from the OLS regression model.

Table 2. Regression Result

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Statistic	p-Value
Constant (β0\beta_0β0)	-451.29	1,113.19	-0.405	0.6958
Population Size (X1)	0.0034	0.0300	0.114	0.9118
Unemployment (X2)	0.8509	0.4740	1.795	0.1103
Government Expenditure (X3)	-1.10e-09	2.11e-09	-0.520	0.6171

$R^2 = 0.3163$
Adjusted $R^2 = 0.0600$
F-Statistic = 1.234 (p = 0.3593)

Interpretation of Results

Effect of Population Size on Poverty

The coefficient for population size (0.0034) indicates a positive relationship with poverty levels, but this effect is statistically insignificant (p = 0.9118). This suggests that, over the study period, increases in population size did not have a significant impact on poverty in Mimika Regency. This finding aligns with the argument made by Mudrajad Kuncoro (1997), who noted that population growth without corresponding economic development can exacerbate poverty. However, the lack of significance may imply that other factors, such as economic policies or migration patterns, mitigate the impact of population growth.

Theoretically, rapid population growth can lead to resource constraints, higher unemployment, and increased demand for public services, which may worsen poverty if economic opportunities are not simultaneously created. However, in Mimika Regency, the growing population might not have exerted significant pressure on available resources, or the region may have experienced mitigating factors, such as temporary economic boosts from mining activities. Further research is needed to explore these dynamics.

Effect of Unemployment on Poverty

Unemployment has a positive coefficient (0.8509), suggesting that higher unemployment rates are associated with higher poverty levels. Nevertheless, this relationship is not statistically significant (p = 0.1103). Although this finding does not establish a causal link, it supports existing literature that highlights unemployment as a key determinant of poverty (Prayoga, 2019). Joblessness reduces household income and limits access to essential goods and services, perpetuating poverty.

The insignificance of this relationship may be due to several factors. First, some unemployed individuals may receive financial support from family members, thereby reducing the immediate impact of unemployment on poverty. Second, the informal sector might absorb a portion of the workforce, masking the true extent of economic hardship. This nuance suggests that unemployment may still be a critical issue but requires more refined measurement methods or additional qualitative analysis to fully understand its impact.

Effect of Government Expenditure on Poverty

Government expenditure has a negative coefficient (-1.10e-09), indicating that higher government spending is associated with lower poverty levels. However, the effect is statistically insignificant (p = 0.6171). This result suggests that, although government spending increased substantially over the study period, it may not have been efficiently targeted to reduce poverty effectively. This finding is consistent with Sumarsono (2003), who emphasized that misallocated or poorly managed public funds can diminish the impact of government intervention. These results are also in line with studies

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from Sudradjat et al., (2024) that poverty reduction is one of the effects of government spending in the consumption sector.

The ineffectiveness of government spending in reducing poverty could stem from several issues, such as corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, or spending priorities that do not align with the needs of the poor. For example, large portions of government expenditure may have been allocated to infrastructure projects that do not directly benefit low-income households. Alternatively, social welfare programs may not have been sufficiently comprehensive or well-distributed. Addressing these inefficiencies could enhance the poverty-reducing impact of public spending.

Discussion in Context of Existing Literature

The results of this study provide mixed evidence on the relationships between population size, unemployment, government expenditure, and poverty. While theoretical frameworks and prior research highlight these factors as crucial determinants of poverty, the findings from Mimika Regency suggest a more nuanced picture.

Population Growth and Poverty: Previous studies, such as those by Aiyedogbon & Ohwofasa (2012), have shown that unchecked population growth can exacerbate poverty, especially in resource-constrained settings. However, the lack of a significant effect in this study indicates that Mimika Regency may have unique characteristics that buffer against the negative consequences of population growth. For instance, the presence of mining operations might create economic opportunities that partially offset the challenges posed by a growing population.

Unemployment and Poverty: The positive but insignificant relationship between unemployment and poverty aligns with the findings of (Barika, 2013), who suggested that not all unemployed individuals experience immediate poverty due to varying social and economic safety nets. In regions where informal employment or family support systems are prevalent, the direct impact of unemployment on poverty may be less pronounced. However, this does not diminish the importance of addressing unemployment through targeted job creation and skill development programs.

Government Expenditure and Poverty: The insignificant impact of government expenditure on poverty is a critical finding that underscores potential inefficiencies in public spending. Studies by Irhamni (2018) have similarly highlighted the limited effectiveness of government expenditure in certain contexts, often attributing this to poor targeting and lack of accountability. For Mimika Regency, ensuring that funds are directed toward programs that directly improve living standards, such as education, healthcare, and social protection, could enhance the effectiveness of government interventions.

Policy Implications

The findings of this study have several policy implications. First, the government should consider implementing population control measures and improving family planning programs to manage population growth sustainably. However, given the insignificant relationship between population size and poverty, these measures should be complemented by strategies that enhance economic productivity and job creation.

Second, addressing unemployment should remain a priority. Although the effect of unemployment on poverty was not statistically significant, the positive relationship indicates a potential area for intervention. Policies aimed at promoting skill development, entrepreneurship, and investment in labor-intensive sectors could help mitigate the impact of unemployment. Additionally, strengthening social safety nets for the unemployed may reduce the risk of poverty.

Finally, improving the effectiveness of government expenditure is crucial. The study suggests that increased spending alone is insufficient to reduce poverty. Policymakers should focus on the quality of spending, ensuring that funds are allocated to programs with a proven track record of poverty

alleviation. Enhancing transparency and accountability in public financial management could also prevent resource misallocation and improve outcomes.

Limitations and Directions for Future Research

While this study provides valuable insights, it has several limitations. The reliance on secondary data may introduce biases related to data collection and reporting. Moreover, the study only examines three variables, potentially overlooking other significant factors, such as education, healthcare access, and external economic shocks, that may influence poverty levels. Future research could incorporate a broader range of continuing from the discussion, the study highlights several broader implications for regional development and poverty alleviation strategies. These insights can guide both policymakers and stakeholders in refining their approaches to address persistent socio-economic challenges in Mimika Regency.

Broader Implications for Regional Development

The findings underscore the need for a holistic and integrated approach to economic and social policy. Addressing poverty effectively requires more than isolated interventions. Instead, comprehensive strategies that simultaneously tackle demographic pressures, labor market inefficiencies, and public sector governance are essential.

1. Integrated Economic Planning: Given the mixed results regarding the relationship between population growth and poverty, policymakers should consider adopting integrated economic planning that aligns population policies with economic development initiatives. For example, investment in sectors that can absorb a large labor force, such as agriculture or labor-intensive manufacturing, could help mitigate the potential negative impact of a growing population on poverty levels. Furthermore, urban planning and infrastructure development should be strategically designed to accommodate population growth while promoting economic activity.

2. Enhancing Labor Market Policies: Although the relationship between unemployment and poverty was not statistically significant, the positive coefficient suggests that unemployment still poses a risk to socio-economic stability. Enhancing labor market policies is crucial. This can include providing vocational training programs tailored to the needs of local industries, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to create more employment opportunities. Additionally, investment in education and skills training can empower the workforce to meet the demands of a dynamic economy, ultimately contributing to poverty reduction.

3. Targeted and Efficient Public Expenditure: The study's findings regarding government expenditure reveal the critical need for more targeted and efficient use of public funds. Public spending should prioritize programs that directly impact poverty, such as social safety nets, affordable healthcare, and quality education. The government could also invest in community-driven development projects that empower local populations to address their specific needs. Moreover, strengthening mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating public expenditure can ensure that resources are utilized effectively and transparently.

4. Addressing Structural Inefficiencies: The limited impact of government spending on poverty may be indicative of structural inefficiencies within the public sector. Addressing these inefficiencies requires institutional reforms that promote accountability, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and combat corruption. Initiatives such as participatory budgeting, where communities have a say in how public funds are allocated, could improve the alignment between government spending and local needs.

Contributions to Theoretical and Practical Knowledge

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on poverty determinants by providing empirical evidence from a specific regional context. The findings

challenge the assumption that population growth and government spending are universally significant predictors of poverty. Instead, they highlight the importance of context-specific factors, such as local economic activities and governance structures, in shaping the effectiveness of policy interventions.

Practically, the research offers actionable recommendations for policymakers in Mimika Regency and similar regions. By emphasizing the need for more efficient resource allocation and tailored economic policies, the study provides a roadmap for improving poverty alleviation efforts. The results also suggest that local governments should not rely solely on increased spending but should focus on optimizing the impact of existing resources through better planning and execution.

Recommendations for Further Research

The study's limitations open avenues for further research that can build on these findings. Future studies could incorporate a wider range of variables, such as education levels, access to healthcare, or the quality of infrastructure, to better understand the multifaceted nature of poverty. Additionally, longitudinal studies that track changes over time could provide deeper insights into the long-term effects of demographic and economic policies.

Exploring qualitative approaches, such as interviews or focus groups with local residents, could also add depth to the understanding of how policies are perceived and experienced on the ground. This mixed-methods approach would allow researchers to capture the socio-cultural and institutional dynamics that influence poverty and economic development.

Finally, comparative studies between Mimika Regency and other regions with different economic structures could help identify best practices and lessons learned. Such research could contribute to a more nuanced understanding of what works in poverty alleviation and why, ultimately informing more effective and equitable policy solutions.

In conclusion, this comprehensive analysis of poverty determinants in Mimika Regency emphasizes the complexity of socio-economic challenges and the need for multifaceted solutions. While population growth, unemployment, and government expenditure are important factors, their impact is influenced by a range of contextual variables that must be carefully considered in policy design. By addressing these issues with a more integrated and evidence-based approach, there is potential to make meaningful progress in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development in the region.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study investigated the impact of population growth, unemployment, and government expenditure on poverty levels in Mimika Regency from 2011 to 2023. Using multiple linear regression analysis through the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method, the research aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these socio-economic factors influence poverty in a region characterized by unique economic and demographic dynamics.

Main Findings and Discussion Points

The results revealed that none of the independent variables—population size, unemployment, and government expenditure—had a statistically significant effect on poverty levels during the study period. However, the direction of the relationships aligns with theoretical expectations. Population size exhibited a positive but insignificant relationship with poverty, suggesting that while a growing population could put pressure on resources, other mitigating factors may be at play in Mimika Regency. Unemployment also showed a positive yet insignificant impact, indicating that economic safety nets or the informal labor market might buffer the immediate effects of joblessness on poverty. Government expenditure had a negative coefficient, implying a potential to reduce poverty, but the lack of significance points to possible inefficiencies in the allocation or management of public funds.

These findings highlight critical points for policy discussions. First, while population control measures and job creation initiatives remain essential, a more integrated approach is needed to address the root causes of poverty. Second, enhancing the efficiency and targeting of government spending is crucial. The study suggests that resources should be allocated strategically to sectors that directly benefit low-income populations, such as healthcare, education, and social services, to ensure meaningful poverty reduction.

Implications and Contributions

The study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by providing empirical evidence from a regional context that challenges the assumption of uniform impacts of demographic and fiscal variables on poverty. It underscores the complexity of poverty determinants and the need for context-specific interventions. The findings emphasize that simply increasing government expenditure or controlling population growth will not automatically lead to poverty reduction without strategic planning and effective implementation.

Practically, the study offers guidance for policymakers in Mimika Regency and similar regions. It calls for a re-evaluation of current policy frameworks to prioritize effective resource allocation and comprehensive economic development strategies. The research also highlights the importance of monitoring and evaluating public expenditures to ensure they achieve their intended outcomes.

Suggestions for Future Research

While this study provides valuable insights, it also highlights areas that warrant further investigation. Future research could explore additional factors such as education, healthcare access, and infrastructure quality to gain a more holistic understanding of poverty dynamics. Incorporating qualitative research methods, such as interviews with local residents or case studies, could provide deeper insights into how policies are perceived and experienced at the community level. Moreover, comparative studies between Mimika Regency and other regions with varying economic structures could shed light on best practices and offer lessons for more effective poverty alleviation.

In summary, this research underscores the multifaceted nature of poverty and the importance of integrated and evidence-based policy approaches. By contributing new empirical data and critical insights into the socio-economic landscape of Mimika Regency, the study lays the groundwork for more informed and targeted poverty reduction strategies that can be adapted to the unique challenges of the region.

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